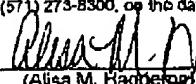


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (571) 273-8300, on the date shown below.
April 9,
Dated: April 9, 2007 Signature: 
(Alisa M. Haggerty)

Docket No.: 00-VE22.07A
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
James E. Curry et al.

Confirmation No.: 8426

Application No.: 09/514,371

Art Unit: 2616

Filed: February 28, 2000

Examiner: S. H. D. Nguyen

For: INTERNET LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE
SERVICE

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

I, Robert D. Farris, being sworn, do hereby state, that:

1. I have reviewed the above-captioned pending patent application ("the Application"). I am one of the inventors of currently pending claims 1-22 and 28-37 of the Application, as well as one of the inventors of the subject matter described and claimed therein. I am further one of the inventors of claims 1-27 that were originally filed in the Application.

2. James E. Curry is also an inventor of claims 1-22 and 28-37 of the Application, and also of claims 1-27 that were originally filed in the Application, as well as the subject matter described and claimed therein.

3. I understand that the Application is a continuation of United States patent application 08/768,460, filed December 18, 1996 ("the Parent"), which patent application issued on June 20, 2000 as United States patent no. 6,078,582.

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4. At the time the Parent was filed, Mr. Curry and I were employed by Bell Atlantic Network Services, Inc. ("Bell Atlantic"), which owned the Parent. I am presently employed by Verizon Services Corp., a successor to Bell Atlantic. I have first-hand knowledge that Mr. Curry is not presently employed by Verizon Services Corp. or any related entity. Further, I have first-hand knowledge that Verizon Services Corp. recently tried to locate Mr. Curry for another purpose, and was unable to do so.

5. I am the sole named inventor on, and the sole inventor of the issued claims of, United States patent no. 6,546,003, entitled "TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM," and also United States patent no. 6,292,478, also entitled "TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM," both filed November 21, 1996. I understand that these patents have each been cited as prior art against the Application.

6. Mr. Curry and I conceived of the inventions claimed by the Application prior to November 21, 1996. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a letter dated September 30, 1996 from Bell Atlantic's outside patent counsel to its in-house patent counsel. A portion of this letter has been redacted to protect certain material under the attorney-client privilege. As noted on page 2 of the letter, a copy was sent to me. Further, this letter attached a draft of the Application ("the September 1996 Draft"), also included in Exhibit A.

7. My review of the September 1996 Draft refreshes my recollection that the inventions claimed in the Application were in fact conceived prior to September 30, 1996. I note that the claims included in the September 1996 Draft are substantially similar, and are in some cases identical, to the claims originally filed in both the Parent and the Application. See Exhibit A.

8. The September 1996 Draft would have been provided to me and to Bell Atlantic's in-house patent counsel for review prior to filing as a matter of regular business practice. The September 1996 Draft also would have been provided to other inventors, in this case Mr. Curry, for review prior to filing.

9. Following our receipt of the September 1996 Draft, which I recall was sometime in early October of 1996, Mr. Curry and I, consulting with each other and with counsel, worked diligently to review and comment on the September 1996 Draft. Our diligence continued until the Parent to the Application was filed on December 18, 1996.

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I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dated: March 29, 2007
Robert D. Farris